



English Competition: To see a World in a Grain of Sand...

The Challenge

The English poet William Blake penned a beautiful poem 'Auguries of Innocence' about the wonder and beauty of the world, and how it can be appreciated on a micro-level:

*To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.*

American poet Emily Dickinson who delighted in the beauty of nature wrote, 'Bring me the sunset in a cup'. Japanese poets mastered the art of precision and fusion when they crafted haikus that captured a single moment in 17 syllables. Matsuo Basho was one of Japan's most famous haiku composers.

Normally the first line is 5 syllables, the second line 7 syllables and the last line 5 syllables. Basho regularly broke this rule and focused more on the image and the sound.



*At the ancient pond
a frog plunges into
the sound of water*

*The lightning flashes
And slashing through the darkness,
A night-heron's screech.*

A writer is an observer of life with an eye for detail. They notice the little things in life like the dewdrops on a petal or a spider dancing in the breeze on a silvery web.

Your challenge is to choose an object and use it as a trigger for an imaginative piece of writing that features one or more haikus. Your object could be a shell, a locket, a teddy bear, bird, the moon, a photograph, a famous painting...the possibilities are endless. The haiku must focus on the object and reveal something about its appearance or how you feel about it. You could begin with a haiku and end with a haiku. The second haiku could further your message or convey a special insight or epiphany into the importance of the object to you or others.

You have until **Friday 3rd May 2013 4pm** to submit your entry. Ask your teacher to email your entry to yagerk@knox.nsw.edu.au or load it up to the **WeWrite2connect** wikispace.

Every student will receive a certificate for their entry. First, second and third places will be awarded to the following three categories:

1. Years 7-8
2. Years 9-10
3. Years 11-12



Marking Criteria

Criteria	Sound	Effective	Skilful
Original use of an object as a trigger for the writing	1-2	3-4	5
Engaging imaginative writing	1-2	3-4	5
Control of language and structure appropriate to audience, purpose and selected form	1-2	3-4	5
Meaningful use of haiku	1-2	3-4	5
		TOTAL	/20



WeWrite2connect English Entry Form

Please complete the form below and email it to **Karen Yager** at yagerk@knox.nsw.edu.au or **Emma Ingersoll** at ingersolle@knox.nsw.edu.au.

School Name	
School Address	
Contact Teacher	
Email address of teacher and contact number	
Grade or class of students	
Number of entries	
Entries emailed to yagerl@knox.nsw.edu.au or uploaded to wiki	Emailed YES/NO Uploaded YES/NO

Regards,

John.W.Weeks
Headmaster

Karen Yager
Dean of Studies